



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 8, 2012

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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KNABE AND RIDLEY-THOMAS TO SEND A FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION'S PROPOSAL TO ADMINISTER THE HEAD START PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF JUNE 12, 2012)

Item No. 9, on the June 12, 2012 Board Agenda, is a motion by Supervisors Knabe and Ridley-Thomas requesting the Board of Supervisors to send a five-signature letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, in support of the Los Angeles County Office of Education's proposal, to administer the Head Start Program in Los Angeles County.

The Head Start Program, launched in 1964 and housed under the Office of Head Start (OHS) within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills needed to be successful in school. The Head Start Program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) became a Head Start Program grantee in 1979 and is now the largest grantee in the nation. For the 2009-10 program year, LACOE received funding to serve 22,737 children in the Head Start Program, and

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1,070 infants, toddlers and pregnant women in Early Head Start Program. The Early Head Start Program extends services and targets children from birth to three years of age. The LACOE Head Start and Early Head Start Programs provide critical educational and support services to young children and families including those involved in the foster care system and homeless families. In the 2009-10 program year, LACOE received over \$215 million from the Federal government for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

In 2007, Congress passed the Head Start reauthorization "Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007" which amended the Head Start Act to require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to recompetete certain Head Start grants. In November 2011, OHS issued new rules for renewal of existing Head Start grants and over the next three years, certain grants will be converted to five-year grants and certain grantees will be required to recompetete.

Those grantees selected to recompetete will be asked to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be conducted in two rounds in a total of 197 geographical regions, including New York and Los Angeles. The RFP for those entities slated for the first round of recompetition was released in April 2012 and LACOE's proposal is due to OHS on August 14, 2012. OHS is expected to make award determinations in December 2012 for implementation of new grants beginning July 1, 2013.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education and this office recommend support of this motion. **Approval of this motion is a matter of Board policy determination.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:KA:sb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel